

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 11, 13, 14 and 16 to 26 are pending this application, of which claims 1, 10 and 14 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has allowed claims 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 to 26. Applicant, however, submits that they are entitled to broader protection.

Prior Art Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 6 as anticipated by Hoeg et al. (6,371,909). We submit that Hoeg neither discloses nor suggests an endoscope including "an imaging probe positioned at the distal end" that includes amongst other items "a light source for illuminating a target," as recited in claim 1. Rather, Hoeg describes an illumination source 16 that is external to endoscope 12 that emits light through a light-transmitting cable 20 from the proximal end to the distal end of the endoscope (see column 3, lines 31 to 45 and FIG. 1 of Hoeg). Nowhere in FIG. 15 of Hoeg, as the Examiner indicates, or anywhere else in the Hoeg reference, does Hoeg disclose an endoscope that includes a light source at its distal end much less an imaging probe at the distal end of the endoscope that includes a light source. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the art rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below. All correspondence should be sent to:

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Serial No. : 09/925,826
Filed : August 9, 2001
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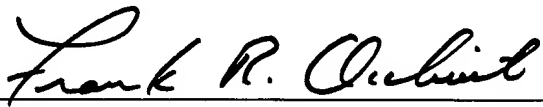
Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-428001 / 02-31-0350

in accordance with the change of address request submitted on January 23, 2003. Applicant requests that the address change be made as previously requested.

No fees are believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 00167-428001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 19, 2003



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